

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. A clean copy of the claims as amended herein is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Prior Art Rejections:

In responding to the Examiner's prior art rejections, Applicant here only justifies the patentability of the independent claims (claim 1, 12, and 18). As the Examiner will appreciate, should these independent claims be patentable over the prior art, narrower dependent claims would also necessarily be patentable. Accordingly, Applicant does not separately discuss the patentability of the dependent claims, although it reserves the right to do so at a later time if necessary.

Claims 1, 12, and 18 have been rejected as anticipated (35 U.S.C. § 102(b)) by USP 6,240,316 ("Richmond").

In response, Applicant has amended each of claims 1, 12, and 18 to recite that the "electronic subassembly measures a voltage during recharging of the rechargeable power source via an external charging field, and transmits the measured voltage to at least one external device." See, for example, ¶ [0091] of Applicant's specification for support. The Applicant believes the Examiner would agree that this new limitation is not disclosed in or suggested by Richmond, and hence that Richmond cannot anticipate these claims or claims dependent thereon.

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Based on the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-20 are allowable, and requests that a Notice of Allowance issue for these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

/ TGL /

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Convenience Clean Copy of Pending Claims

1. (currently amended) An implantable electronic module, comprising:
 - an hermetically-sealed housing;
 - an electronic subassembly housed within said hermetically-sealed housing;
 - a rechargeable power source contained within said hermetically-sealed housing and operatively connected to said electronic subassembly for providing operating power to said electronic subassembly;
 - a first electrode external to said hermetically-sealed housing and electrically coupled to said electronic subassembly;
 - a second electrode external to said hermetically-sealed housing and electrically coupled to said electronic subassembly;
 - an antenna coil within said hermetically-sealed housing; and
 - telemetry circuitry, coupled to said antenna coil, for allowing data-containing signals to be received from and sent to at least one external device,wherein the electronic subassembly measures a rectified voltage during recharging of the rechargeable power source via an external charging field, and transmits the measured voltage to one of the at least one external devices.
2. (original) The electronic module of Claim 1 wherein the electronic subassembly includes a ferrite core around which the antenna coil is wrapped.
3. (original) The electronic module of Claim 2 wherein the ferrite core includes a first half and a second half.
4. (currently amended) The electronic module of Claim 1 wherein the measured voltage is measured when no stimulation pulse is being provided by the electronic subassembly.

5. (original) The electronic module of Claim 4 wherein the hermetically-sealed housing comprises a tubular-shaped housing having a length no greater than about 27 mm and a diameter no greater than about 3.3 mm.
6. (original) The electronic module of Claim 4 wherein the electronic subassembly includes means for generating stimulation pulses that are applied through the first and second electrodes.
7. (original) The electronic module of Claim 6 wherein at least one of the first and second electrodes is carried on an external surface of said hermetically-sealed case.
8. (currently amended) The electronic module of Claim 1 wherein the rechargeable power source comprises a lithium-ion battery.
9. (currently amended) The electronic module of claim 5 wherein the rechargeable power source comprises a super capacitor.
10. (currently amended) The electronic module of claim 1 wherein the rechargeable power source comprises a rechargeable battery.
11. (currently amended) The electronic module of claim 1 wherein at least one of the external devices is an external charger.

12. (currently amended) An implantable electronic module, comprising:
an hermetically-sealed housing;
an electronic subassembly housed within said hermetically-sealed housing;
a rechargeable power source contained within said hermetically-sealed housing and
operatively connected to said electronic subassembly for providing operating power
to said electronic subassembly;
a first electrode external to said hermetically-sealed housing and electrically coupled to
said electronic subassembly;
a second electrode external to said hermetically-sealed housing and electrically coupled
to said electronic subassembly; and
telemetry circuitry for allowing data-containing signals to be received from and sent to
at least one external device,
wherein the electronic subassembly measures a voltage during recharging of the
rechargeable power source via an external charging field, and transmits the
measured voltage to one of the at least one external devices.
13. (currently amended) The electronic module of claim 12 wherein the measured voltage is
measured when no stimulation pulse is being provided by the electronic subassembly.
14. (currently amended) The electronic module of claim 12 wherein the rechargeable power
source comprises a lithium-ion battery.
15. (currently amended) The electronic module of claim 14 wherein the rechargeable power
source comprises a super capacitor.
16. (currently amended) The electronic module of claim 12 wherein the rechargeable power
source comprises a rechargeable battery.
17. (currently amended) The electronic module of claim 16 wherein the hermetically-sealed
housing is tubular shaped.

18. (currently amended) An implantable neural stimulator module, comprising:
- an hermetically-sealed housing;
 - an electronic subassembly housed within said hermetically-sealed housing;
 - a rechargeable power source contained within said hermetically-sealed housing and operatively connected to said electronic subassembly for providing operating power to said electronic subassembly;
 - a first electrode external to said hermetically-sealed housing and electrically coupled to said electronic subassembly; and
 - a second electrode external to said hermetically-sealed housing and electrically coupled to said electronic subassembly,
- wherein the electronic subassembly measures a voltage during recharging of the rechargeable power source via an external charging field, and wirelessly transmits the measured voltage to at least one external device.
19. (currently amended) The implantable neural stimulator module of claim 18 wherein at least one of the first and second electrodes is carried on an external surface of said hermetically-sealed case.
20. (currently amended) The implantable neural stimulator module of claim 18 wherein the rechargeable power source comprises a rechargeable battery.